

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are in the application of which claims 1, 5, 8, and 10 are in independent form. Claims 10-24 are allowed.

Claim 10 is amended to change the first and second data paths to first and second paths. The paths certainly could carry data, but are not restricted to being only data paths.

Request for an Interview. Attorney, Alan Aldous, requests a telephone interview. He can be reached at 503.264.7125.

Information Disclosure Statements. A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on December 12, 2002. An additional supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejections. Claim 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 7 is amended and is definite. For support see, for example, the specification at page 7, lines 20-22.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) rejections. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent 5,530,623 to Swano et al. Claims 2, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Patent 5,530,623 to Sanwo et al.

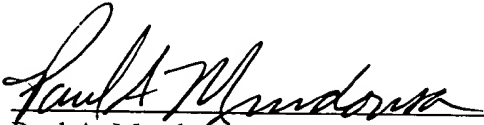
Claims 1, 5, and 8 are amended to recite that some of the fingers are coupled to on module terminations while others are not. (Of course, in this context, "coupled" means electrically coupled which is consistent with usage in the specification.) By contrast, in Sanwo et al., it appears that each conductor on transmission line 73 is terminated at module terminations 75 on terminator module 77. Note, FIG. 3 and col. 4, lines 17-24. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

There are additional reasons why the claims are patentable.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul A. Mendonisa
Reg. No. 42,879

Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman
12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
Phone: (503) 264-7125
Phone: (503) 684-6200
Phone (310) 207-3800
Facsimile: (503) 684-3245